

BBILE REVIEW

Part 1: CREATION-

Stories of creation Tell us the **WHY** of what happens in the early world, **not the how**.

- **What we need to know: God loves us, God is faithful and God can be trusted; God made the world from nothing; sin entered the world when Adam and Eve (or the first humans) decided to NOT trust God and they disobeyed him**
- Toward the end of this period, Cain and Abel make an offering to God. Which one was acceptable to God? Abel's. He offered the **spotless lamb** to the Lord. This is significant going forward.

Part 2: PATRIARCHS-

- Here we meet Abram who is a good man and our forefather.
- God tells him that IF he and his family follow God he will make them 3 promises:
 - 1) **give him land in Canaan**
 - 2) **his name would be great and a Royal Dynasty would come from him**
 - 3) **the entire earth would be blessed through him.**
- Abraham's lineage is important because it's from his line of descendants that the true king will be born: Jesus.
- God blessed Abraham and Sarah w/ a son Isaac-
- Isaac had which 2 sons (Jacob and Esau)
- After Jacob steals Esau's blessing and cons him out of his inheritance as first born, Jacob runs away, marries 2 sisters and eventually has 12 sons. These sons became known as **what?** (12 tribes of Israel). Joseph is the most famous son because he was sold into slavery in Egypt. Years later, the rest of his family, his father and all his siblings and their families, end up in Egypt. **Jacob's name is now Israel and the 12 tribes of Israel are in Egypt.** Who received the blessing from Jacob/Israel? It was **JUDAH**, son #4. The first 3 sons sinned against their father so Judah got the blessing and Joseph, Jacob's favorite, got the **double inheritance**. Thus the lineage of Jesus (the king of kings) would come through **Jacob's son Judah's line.**

Part 3: EXODUS

- The 12 tribes of Israel were in Egypt for 400yrs. Over that time they were enslaved by the Egyptians who were the world power at that time. they worshiped many gods.
- Who is born? MOSES and God calls Moses to get the Israelites out of Egypt and into the land that God promised Abraham, these were Abraham's descendants. He wants them back in Canaan.
- Through a series of plagues that God does to the Pharaoh, the Israelites are finally set free and they journey out of Egypt and into the desert.
- They head south to Mt Sinai where they receive the 10 commandments. God even sends them bread from Heaven each day to keep them from starving yet they complain & grumble
- They carry the 10 commandments in the Ark of the Covenant and keep it well guarded.
- Finally they make their way north and God tells them to get back into Canaan. To do so, they must conquer the city of Jericho. Instead of listening, they spy on the city for 40days. Their punishment is to **wander in the desert for 40yrs!** At last, Moses dies and Joshua leads them. They take control over the city of Jericho and soon they return to the promised land of Canaan
- The 12 tribes spread out and each get a region. The Levite tribe is the tribe of priests so they stay in the cities. The tribe of Joseph gets 2 because Joseph was the son who got the inheritance from Jacob while Judah got the blessing.

Part 4: JUDGES

- Joshua dies and they are w/o a real leader. They are finally in the Promised Land and God tells them to keep conquering the land, take it over and kick the other people out (the Canaanites). They don't listen and they let the foreigners remain in the Promised Land. This causes problems. They start intermarrying and adopting the practices of the Canaanites. They start worshipping the gods of the foreigners and going against God. Then the foreigners battle them and wins. Then Israel repents and asks God for forgiveness. God answers their prayers and sends a JUDGE, who is like a might warrior, to help defeat their enemies. Then they enter a time of peace. **BUT this happens 7xs. They stop following God, they are defeated, they repent and God helps them.**
- Various judges come along and guide the people: Samson, Gideon, Deborah
- Time passes and Israel *wants to be like everyone else and have a king*. Samuel is their judge/prophet. They complain to Samuel. God tells them it's a bad idea and that a king will tax them and treat them terribly. They don't care. And that's where we pick up today!
- The 12 tribes spread out and each get a region. The Levite tribe is the tribe of priests so they stay in the cities. The tribe of Joseph gets 2 because Joseph was the son who got the **inheritance** from Jacob while Judah got the **blessing**.
- Joshua dies and who rules them? **while they are in the promised Land, so are other people so there's constant WAR. Various judges come along and guide the people:** samson, ruth, eli and finally Samuel. Samuel gets old and what do the people want? A KING. **God loves them and wants to give them what they want, like any parent.**

KINGS

- God tells Samuel to anoint **Saul who becomes the first King** of Israel. Now the 2nd promise is fulfilled, they are a royal dynasty. This doesn't go well and who is anointed after Saul? King David, a shepherd boy from Bethlehem. He is from the tribe of... JUDAH. He becomes a great king and reigns 40yrs followed by his son: SOLOMON.
 - **They are now a royal dynasty**
- Solomon was the wisest man, although wise he was not a good person and treated the people terribly. He did however build the **temple in Jerusalem**. This is where the 10 commandments were held, where they worshipped and where they offered sacrifice to God.
- **Important: the temple is in Jerusalem and this is where they must worship (instead of the tent they carried in the desert)**

KINGDOM DIVIDES

- After Solomon's death, Solomon's son, **Rehoboam comes into power**. Because Solomon had been such a terrible king, the northern tribes send a messenger, Jeroboam to find out what kind of king Rehoboam will be. Rehoboam tells them that he will be far worse than his father. As a result, the kingdom divides- **10 in north and 2 in the south. The northern kingdom is now Israel and it's capital Samaria. The southern kingdom is Judah and its capital Jerusalem.**
- **This is huge**
- The **north cant worship in Jerusalem** and makes up its own religion- own priests etc. **God sends them prophets:** Hosea, Elijah, Elisha, Amos to bring them back to him. **Last time we talked about Hosea who was cheated on by his wife and God told Hosea that the people were like the unfaithful wife because God kept taking them back and they were unfaithful and worshipping other gods.**

- The south also falls into trouble. God sends them prophets to help get them on track as well: Isaiah, Micah, Joel, Jeremiah, Daniel, Ezekial, etc.
- We pick up having 2 kingdoms- both continuing to fall away from God and break the covenant their forefathers Abraham and Moses made. YET God still remains faithful, still tries to guide them.

EXILE

- Although God sends prophets, the Northern Kingdom never gets on track. They are led by corrupt kings who have begun their own “religion” and no longer follow God. God warns them but they are eventually conquered by the Assyrians. The Assyrians deport many, slaughter many, and leave others in Israel. Those left in Israel intermarry w/ other nations and become known as Samaritans.
- The Southern Kingdom of Judah also has a number of corrupt kings and only a few good kings. Because of their unfaithfulness, God allows them to be conquered by the Babylonians. The Babylonians take them to Babylon in 3 waves, destroy the temple and Jerusalem. Zedekiah is the final king of Judah.
- While in Exile, God sends many prophets to the Jews. In Babylon they are once again tempted to worship false gods, eat forbidden foods and stray from God. Daniel is a prophet that the people look to as an example. He is thrown in the lions den because he wont eat unclean meat or worship the false gods. God sends an angel to protect him. Jeremiah, Ezekial and Isaiah are other prophets that predict the Messiah, predict the return from exile, and give encouragement to the people.

RETURN

- After 70yrs of exile, Babylon is defeated by Peria. The Persian King allows the Jews to return to Judah. Led by Zerubbabel, they rebuild the temple. A more modest version.
- The second wave of return included Ezra. Ezra was responsible for reteaching the Torah and getting the people back on track w/ worship.
- The 3rd wave of return included Nehemiah. He was responsible to rebuilding the wall around Jerusalem.